

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 6125

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UN, US, LI

SUBJ: AMBASSADOR BENNETT'S MEETING WITH LIBERIAN AMBASSADOR
THOMAS, NOVEMBER 19

1. AMBASSADOR THOMAS, LIBERIA'S PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE IN GENEVA, AND AMEMBER OF LIBERIAN DELEGATION TO THE 30TH UNGA, CALLED ON AMBASSADOR BENNETT NOVEMBER 19.
 2. THOMAS EXPRESSED HIS DEEP SATISFACTION WITH THE AMERICAN STANCE DURING THE CURRENT GA: THE UNITED STATES WAS SHOWING OTHERS THAT THEY COULD NOT USURP THE ROLE WHICH IS AMERICA'S AS WORLD LEADER. THOMAS STATED HIS CONCERN OVER SOVIET ATTEMPTS TO TAKE OVER IN ANGOLA AND DEFENDED LIBERIA'S POSITION--DESPITE EXTREMELY HEAVY ARAB PRESSUES--ON THE ZIONISM QUESTION.
 3. THOMAS TURNED TO A DISCUSSION OF LIBERIAN POLICY, VOLUNTEERING THAT PRESIDENT TOLBERT HAD WORRIED SOME OF HIS CLOSE CONFIDANTS, INCLUDING THOMAS, WITH HIS INITIAL POLICIES, WHICH SEEMED TO BE DRIFITING AND INCLUDED SYMPATHY FOR SOVIET CAUSES. THOMAS IMPLIED THAT THE PRESIDENT'S LATE BROTHER, STEPHEN WAS RESPONSIBLE. THOMAS ASKED THAT THE USG MAKE AN EFFORT TO TELL TOLBERT THAT WE ARE STRONGLY BEHIND HIM, IN ORDER THAT TOLBERT, IN TURN, MIGHT MAKE A "FIRM COMMITMENT" TO THE U.S. PERHAPS THIS COULD BE DONE BEFORE INAUGURATION
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DAY IN LIBERIA, IN JANUARY 1976.

5. THOMAS THEN EXPRESSED HIS SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL, NOTING HIS REGRET THAT LIBERIA HAD HAD TO BREAK RELATIONS, AND DESCRIBED HIS OWN ROLE IN ARRANGING SOUTH AFRICAN PRESIDENT VORSTER'S VISIT TO LIBERIA. NEITHER SOUTH AFRICA NOR ISRAEL SHOULD BE ISOLATED INTERNATIONALLY, HE OBSERVED.

5. LASTLY, THOMAS APPEALED FOR US SUPPORT TO ASSIST HIM IN SECURING A HIGH POSITION IN THE UNITED NATIONS SECRETARIAT. AMBASSADOR BENNETT REPLIED THAT WE WOULD DO WHAT WE COULD TO HELP.
MOYNIHAN

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